

Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner has requested that Applicants restrict their invention to one of the following:

- I. Claims 1-35 and 37-45 "drawn to a process for preparing a porous film by exposing the film to a UV light source, classified in class 264, subclass 415";
- II. Claims 36 and 46-50 "drawn to a porous film, classified in class 428, subclass 304.4"; and
- III. Claims 51 and 52 "drawn to a mixture for depositing an organosilicate film, classified in class 423, subclass 324".

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants have elected with traverse the claims in Group I, or claims 1-35 and 37-45, for continued prosecution with traverse. As a result of this election, Applicants are withdrawing the claims in Groups II and III, or claims 36, 46-50, and 51-52, but reserving their rights under 35 USC § 121 to file a divisional application for the non-elected claims and/or request for rejoinder upon allowance of the elected claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement on the following basis. If the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. MPEP §803. Applicants respectfully submit that there would be no serious burden on the Patent Office to examine in this application all of the present claims because the subject matter of the claims is sufficiently related that a search of the claims in any one Group would encompass a search for the subject matter of the other Group. Thus, the restriction requirement is improper and should not be maintained. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/624,356

Should the Examiner require any further information, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rosaleen P. Morris-Oskanian".

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